

We'd Have Money to Burn

A PERFECT SOLUTION TO THE ANNUAL TAX PROBLEM

By MARK BERGERAC

(Editor's note: Mr. Bergerac, a local resident, is an occasional contributor to the Torrance Press. He has written a number of articles as well as letters to the editor, always provocative. Here's another one.)

Everybody today is talking or writing about tax reductions. I can hardly believe that this would be achieved by reducing expenditures, but rather by

finding an extra source of revenue for the Government.

I think that this extra revenue could be obtained through stricter enforcement of the traffic laws.

For instance, I tried out the following experiment: I drove on a weekday at 2:00 p.m. on Torrance blvd. at 25 m.p.h. in the 25 m.p.h., zone, on the right lane, and at 35

to determine who the "character" is.

Actual reading follows the "icebreaker." At this time, children are allowed to select their own books.

They sit in a circle, each with a book, and then one of these books is chosen for reading, and acting, either by majority vote or "counting off."

After the book has been read to the group, youngsters are chosen to play-act the story. Before this is done, the group discusses the characters and the moral of the story.

"The purpose of this program," Mrs. Pestoff said, "is to show the children that stories are fun; to bring out their creative talents; to give them a chance to think and talk; and to develop an interest in good books."

Children's Imagination Given Free Rein at Parks

The Three Bears, Little Black Sambo, and the Runaway Pancake have come to Torrance. That's what it may seem like at the local parks and playgrounds when Elsie Pestoff holds her "Imagination Hour."

Mrs. Pestoff, whose interests are dramatics, writing, and children, is teaching youngsters the fun of using their imagination.

She knows that every youngster loves a good story, has a receptive imagination, and wants to express himself.

The "Imagination Hour" draws upon these needs and interests, stimulating youngsters through the reading of children's stories and then giving youngsters a chance

to act out what they have read and heard.

One way in which Mrs. Pestoff breaks the ice is by conducting the "three book guessing game."

She will take three books with which the youngsters are all familiar from previous readings. Each child selects a character and a scene from one of the books and then acts this out.

The other youngsters are then given three guesses each

EVERY HOUSE where love, ideas and friendship is a guest, is surely home, sweet home; for there the heart can rest. — Henry Van Dyke.

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IMAGINATION HOUR

Richard Gibson of 24252 Los Codona acts out a character from a book in pantomime while other youngsters try to guess who he is. In charge of this program is Mrs. Elsie Pestoff.—Press Photo.

m.p.h. in the 35 m.p.h. zone. During the 10 minutes' drive on a 3-mile segment, 12 cars overtook my car, that is, 12 speeders. If they were all fined \$5, this would mean a gross income of \$60.

Now calculating only five hours of dense traffic per day, this would mean 300 minutes or 30 times 10 minutes multiplied by \$60, making \$1800 for the day, or \$650,000 for the whole year around.

200 Billion Dollars

I suppose that the total length of all roads in the country with a similar traffic density amounts to one million miles, so that we have to multiply the \$650,000 for the 3-mile track by 333,333 and we arrive at the staggering amount of 200 billion dollars.

Of course we have to assume that from the start of such a new law, a great number of drivers in the whole country would slow down.

However, too many drivers would still continue rushing in order to reach the office or maybe the bar or the poker party and many speeders would be caught even several times a day in various places.

Gross Income

Therefore, I assume that if the Government would take in only 10 per cent of the above mentioned hypothetical amount, this would still net a gross income of 20 billion dollars.

Now many people will think that catching the speeders would cost more than the fines would amount to. That's wrong.

It has been outlined in the past, several times in your paper, that there are very simple and inexpensive methods to catch speeders.

First, every car should be provided on the top over the windshield with a good visible speedometer together with the license number.

Secondly, police officers would simply take snap shots from strategic points of the speeder's speedometers.

We could even save the costs of special officers in this time of automation. We simply have to install automatic movie cameras at strategic points and police officers would simply have to change the film reels periodically.

The traffic tickets would then be sent to the car owners by mail, after, of course, the law has been changed, which today requires personal delivery.

Other Violations

There is another category of delinquent drivers whose fines could be used for the desired tax reduction. I made also another test: I posted myself strategically by a stop sign nearest the police station for 10 minutes.

By law every car has to make a full stop. I wanted to see how many cars would obey the law.

I am sorry to say that no one made a full stop out of 68 cars that drove by the stop sign during 10 minutes.

Four cars did not stop at all and proceeded at full speed, while the others slowed down to 2 to 10 m.p.h.

Therefore, all 68 should get fines from \$5 up. But I would not even advocate all of them to be fined because this would result in an inflation of fines and maybe a revolution. But if we would fine only the four drivers who did not stop at all; if we would assume that this happens only during 6 hours a day; and if we assume that there are only 400,000 equally dangerous stop signs throughout the country, the fines, if only \$5 apiece, would amount to 100 billion dollars a year.

Of course the drivers would drive more carefully, but there would still be at least two billion such traffic tickets and this would be a further income of 10 billion dollars, making a combined total of 30 billion dollars. The cost of the cameras and maintenance would hardly reach three billion dollars.

THEREFORE, OUR TAXES COULD BE REDUCED 27 BILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY. THAT MEANS THAT EVERY TAX PAYER COULD HAVE A TAX CUT OF OVER \$400. ON THE AVERAGE.

I am only afraid that the people who would have to bring these changes about would oppose them, because most of them would fall into the category of those who would be fined. Don't you think so?

(EDITOR'S NOTE: YES.)

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Torrance Beach All Mixed Up

Because of a major legal snarl, extensive Torrance Beach improvements planned by the county and amounting to \$250,000 are at a stand-still, with funds going to Manhattan Beach instead.

Originally the money had been slated for improving an area between Riviera Beach club and Torrance Beach parking lot.

Funds were to be used for extending the present parking area, install pedestrian ramps down to the beach, and build a comfort station and change rooms.

The trouble involves acquisition of 18 lots by the county. Nine have been obtained but the county is having difficulties searching for title since the lots are owned by 500 persons.

Discouraged with the complications, the county this past year transferred the funds to Manhattan Beach.

STUDENTS COMPLETE J A COURSE

Eleven students of Torrance High school are now full fledged junior business tycoons, a result of Junior Achievement training this past school year, according to an announcement yesterday by Clarence N. Parker, Jr., executive director of JA in Los Angeles.

Completing the full year's program at the Verdugo Business Center at 121 East Verdugo ave., Burbank, are the following students: BOYS—Bill Fendley, Sam Hirose, Bill Husted, Tom Kling, Victor Masaki, Paul Slyh. GIRLS—Janice Bishop, Jan Kuhl, Linda Lewis, Jean McNeil, Patricia Travis.

The majority have indicated they will also apply for membership in the program, which is available in a limited number of communities in the County, when business starts up again in October.

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NOTICE

TO PLACE A WANT AD DIAL FA. 8-2345 SAY: "I want to place a want ad."

All ads taken before our Tuesday deadline of 5 p.m. will appear in Thursday's paper.

Cancellations... Ad must appear in paper one time before it can be cancelled.

Errors... The Torrance Press will not be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion of any advertisement and reserves the right to rectify all errors by a corrected insertion of the advertisement the following Thursday.

RESTAURANTS 23

RESTAURANTS 25

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